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NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS

Owing to the disturbance caused by war conditions in the postal service, we cannot guarantee prompt delivery of this journal through the mails. For delays in such delivery, while they should be reported at once to this office, we cannot accept blame. The journal is mailed in the General New York Post Office early Friday evening of each week and should reach our N. Y. City and suburban subscribers by Saturday morning, and those at greater distances in proportionate time.

When extra copies of any issue are required, advance notice of the number of copies so required should reach this office at latest by Thursday afternoon of any week. Later orders frequently cannot be filled, as we print only a few extra copies more than our regular edition.

FOREIGN SALE CATALOGS

Illustrated catalogs of the coming important Oppenheim picture sale in Berlin can be seen and studied without charge at the "American Art News" office, as well as those of all important art and literary sales at Christie's and Sotheby, Wilkinson and Hodge's London rooms before such sales, and priced catalogs, following the same. The "Art News" has also for sale copies of the more important foreign sales catalogs.

APPRAISALS—"EXPERTISING"

The "Art News" is not a dealer in art or literary property but deals with the dealer and to the advantage of both owner and dealer. Our Bureau of "Expertising and Appraisal" has conducted some most important appraisals. We are frequently called upon to pass upon the value of art works for collectors and estates, for the purpose of insurance, sale, or more especially, to determine whether prior appraisals made to fix the amount due under the inheritance or death taxes are just and correct ones—and often find that such former appraisals have been made by persons not qualified by experience or knowledge of art quality or market values, with resultant deception and often overpayments of taxes, etc. We suggest to all collectors and executors, therefore, the advisability of consulting our Bureau of Appraisal either in the first place or for revision of other appraisals. This Bureau is conducted by persons in every way qualified by experience and study of art works for many years, and especially of market values, both here and abroad.

IS PENNELL "CAMOUFLAGING"?

Is it possible that "Joe" Pennell is "camouflaging"? We must admit that this is the only explanation which would satisfy us that the recent remarkable occurrence in Philadelphia, the city of his birth, which has led to his leaving the Art Club, where he has been such a constant attendant as a member since the war forced him to leave London, after many years of residence there, is not another of the able and eccentric artist's self-advertising performances.

While we have been told for some time past that "Joe" Pennell, permitted and, it is said, deputized, by both the British and American Governments to portray with his able pencil and needle, "the wonders of work" in the munition factories and shipyards of both countries, had indulged in anti-British and even pro-German utterances and spoken opinions, we dismissed such reports as incredible. Even now, and despite the long and sensational stories in the Phila. dailies, we would prefer to believe that, following the example of the immortal "Jimmie" Whistler, long Pennell's artistic god, whose biographer he is and whose champion he has even been, "Joe" has simply, in the slang of the day, been trying to "put one over" on the governors and his fellow members of the Phila. Art Club.

We commend our readers to the brief and simple statement of what would seem to be the basic facts in the case from our Phila. correspondent, a veteran journalist of sane judgment.

There would certainly appear to be a decided difference of opinion, if the reports in the Phila. dailies are to be at all credited, among the members of the Art Club regarding the matter. One member is quoted as comparing Pennell to a "giant among pygmies," and defending his course, while others are quoted as denouncing him in unmeasured terms. There are also any number of sensational rumors anent the matter afloat, one even to the effect that the artist was forcibly and physically ejected from the club by incensed and patriotic fellow members, etc.

One thing is certain, namely, that if, as again seems incredible, after the honors that Pennell has received from the British Government and people and the adulation that has been awarded himself and his work in America, he has seriously attacked Great Britain, and worse, if he has uttered pro-German sentiments, that he should not only be debarred from the society of American artists and gentlemen, in or out of clubs, but should be prohibited from entering any Government factory or shipyard of the Allies during the war.

This is no time to temporize with any man, distinguished artist or not, who can be rightly accused of disloyalty. "He who is not with us is against us."

But, as we have already stated, we prefer to believe, until convinced to the contrary, that the Phila. Art Club incident is only a "camouflage" on Pennell's part. Even if so, the attempted joke has given him this time, as Whistler found on some occasions, rather more harmful than helpful advertising.



JOSEPH PENNELL

Wayman Adams

In Pa. Academy Display.

FACTS OF THE PENNELL CASE

Philadelphia, Feb. 21, 1918.

No action has been taken by the Board of Trustees of the University of Pa. in reference to the rumored withdrawal or reconsideration of their intention of honoring Joseph Pennell with the degree of Doctor of Literature at the exercises on Washington's birthday. It appears that Mr. Pennell became involved in a rather unpleasant incident in the cafe of the club, Feb. 14 last, brought about by his protest against the entertainment by a member of a number of Canadian officers in khaki, he claiming that they were enjoying a privilege that is denied to American soldiers in uniform.

This precipitated a sort of a row, with the result that the artist was suspended from the use of the club by the House Committee, whereupon he promptly resigned. Whether this resignation has been accepted is not yet known, but it would be well if the Membership Committee gave the matter very careful consideration prior to action and not allow themselves to be misled by the exaggerated reports of the affair in the local press in which it was stated that the end was not yet reached.

Every effort is being made on the part of members in the Art Club to keep the matter quiet, in view of the effect it might have upon the minds of distinguished foreign guests of British and other nationalities serving as our Allies and using the privileges courteously extended to them as strangers.

There seems to be no doubt, in spite of reports of anti-British utterances, of the real patriotism of the artist who, withal, is a man with a very strong sense of justice and is not sparing of strong words to express himself as a critic of things in the social or artistic worlds. His denunciation of the critics who styled Whistler a "poseur" in his recent talk at the Art Alliance was a good example of how he can "flay 'em alive."

Eugene Castello.

A Deserved Tribute

Editor, AMERICAN ART NEWS.

Dear Sir.

I notice the death of an old friend, Augustus Van Cleef of this city.

I remember what an indefatigable art news getter he was and what a nice mannered man he was at all times.

For personal reasons in the early '80's, I wished to preserve silence as to my giving an annual prize at the National Academy annual exhibition. Just as I had perfected the conditions through the late Horace W. Robbins (then secretary of the academy) Mr. Van Cleef gained information of my gift and called upon me and asked if he might not be the first to announce the gift in the "Herald." His consideration for the welfare of the measure was later shown when in his "Herald" article of July 13, 1883, he told the story of the first prize ever initiated at the institution.

I think Mr. Van Cleef's diplomatic launching of the prize bearing my name had much to do with the creation of the many prizes that were featured later in art institutions here and elsewhere.

Very truly yours,

Thomas B. Clarke.

N. Y., Feb. 18, 1918.

Not His "Secretary"

In the story of the Combination Picture sale at the Plaza Ballroom, Feb. 8 last, published in the AMERICAN ART NEWS of Feb. 10, it was stated, through a misunderstanding, that Miss R. Teschner, who purchased several paintings for a client at said sale, was the "Secretary of a Mr. R. Ederheimer" and had secured these canvases, presumably for a client of his. It is only fair to Miss Teschner to now state that she is not Mr. Ederheimer's "Secretary," and that her purchases were for her own account and that of a client.

OBITUARY

Augustus Van Cleef

Augustus Van Cleef, for some three years assistant editor of the AMERICAN ART NEWS, but who left its service in February, 1916, last, through illness, died in the hospital on Ward's Island, Feb. 14, last, in his 67th year.

He was born at Millstone, New Jersey, and was a member of an old New Jersey and New York, originally Dutch, family. His father was a prominent dry goods merchant and one wealthy for his time, from 1840-1880, in this city, so that he received a liberal education in private schools here and abroad, and also took a special course at the Columbia School of Mines.

Afterwards, and while still a young man, he became Assistant State Geologist of Kansas, and later was appointed U. S. Consul at Barbadoes and La Guayra in turn, which posts he filled with credit to himself and the Government. Resigning from the Consular service in the early eighties, he took up art writing, for which he was well equipped and for many years was the art writer and critic for the N. Y. "Herald." Older New York artists well remember the energy and assiduity with which Mr. Van Cleef reported their activities, and how well he kept the "Herald" in the lead of art news. He made weekly visits to all the studios worth while—a task then easier when the city was smaller and there were comparatively few studio buildings, than now and he became a personal friend of such older men as Homer Martin, George Inness, J. G. Brown, William H. Beard, J. McEntee, E. L. Henry and Edward Gay, and later of William M. Chase and Carroll Beckwith, et al. He wrote fluently and a man of wide cultivation, while never a great critic, his work was always worth reading. He also wrote on the drama and music for the "Herald," and was a prime favorite with Mr. James Gordon Bennett. Leaving the "Herald" in the early nineties, through the development of a mental disorder, he later on, and when he had recovered his health, became the Librarian for Knoedler & Co., which post he also held for some years. He was afterwards employed by Robert Appleton & Co., in the preparation of the Catholic Encyclopedia, having become a Catholic on his marriage, about 1900.

Coming back into the art field in 1913 he did good service on the AMERICAN ART NEWS, until two years ago his earlier mental disorder reappeared under a strain of work, and he spent his later days in retirement.

The dead art writer is survived by two children, a girl of 18 and a boy, Roland Knoedler Van Cleef, who is at school. His wife, whom he married in late life, died some years ago. He was one of the earliest members of the Calumet Club and retained his membership until his first illness. His funeral took place Saturday morning last.

William Greenwell

Dr. William Greenwell, veteran, archaeologist, recently died in London, aged 97. He was an expert angler and when 95 fished successfully, with the aid of a companion. The trout and salmon fly known as "Greenwell's Glory" was his invention. Although known as an accomplished writer on art and archaeological topics, it was only in 1908 when through the late J. Pierpont Morgan his collection of prehistoric bronzes had been secured for the British Museum that his reputation was really made.

Dr. Greenwell's benefactions to the British Museum from 1879 to 1883 included a large collection of antiquities excavated by him from British barrows, and described in his work on the subject; a further collection of similar antiquities; a collection of flint implements from Norfolk, illustrating the working of flint by the inhabitants of Britain during the Stone Period, and other antiquities. Some years ago he sold a very fine collection of flint implements, mostly English, to Mr. W. Allan Sturge.

But prehistoric implements did not wholly occupy Dr. Greenwell's leisure moments. For many years he was an ardent collector of Greek coins, the extreme beauty of which is in such striking contrast to the rude forms of ancient flints and bronzes.

William E. Fordham

William E. Fordham, for over twenty years Secretary to the Henry Schultheis Co., No. 142 Fulton St., died Jan. 31 last at his residence in Brooklyn, following a slight apoplectic stroke a few days earlier. He had an excellent knowledge of pictures and art objects and was well known and liked in the art trade.

Mr. Fordham is survived by a widow and two young sons who are serving their country, one with his regiment in South Carolina, and the other with the U. S. Signal Corps at the City College.

William Lockett Agnew

William Lockett Agnew, head of Thomas Agnew & Sons, art dealers, of London, Manchester and Liverpool, died in London, Feb. 14 last. He was 60 years old.